

Application No.: 09/653,286  
Response

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. No claims are currently being amended, canceled or added. Therefore, claims 1-18 and 20-29 are pending in the application.

Extension of Time

A petition and fee for a one-month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date for response to the Final Office Action until February 19, 2005.

Advisory Action Requested

If this response does not result in a Notice of Allowance, then Applicants respectfully request a timely Advisory Action.

Written Statement regarding Substance of 2/3/05 Interview per 37 CFR 1.133(b)

Applicants appreciate very much the opportunity to discuss the rejections in this application with Examiner Motilewa Good-Johnson in the telephone interview that occurred on February 3, 2005, at 3:00 p.m. EST. Those participating in the interview were Examiner Good-Johnson and the undersigned attorney of record. In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.133(b), and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) §713.04, Applicants provide the following written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action.

No exhibits were shown or discussed. The claims that were discussed were independent claim 1 and claims 20-29. The prior art that was discussed was U.S. Patent No. 6,538,666 to Ozawa et al. ("Ozawa et al."). No specific proposed amendments were discussed.

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The general thrust of the Applicants' principal arguments that were discussed in the interview were as follows. In Applicants' claim 1, a color of words of a category changes in response to, and to indicate, experiences of a character. This is for the user's convenience when the user plays a game. Words to be differently colored based on experiences of a character include, for example, a name of a place where the character has been to or has not been to, and a name of a person (including a monster) whom the character has met or not met.

Ozawa et al. discloses an arrangement allowing a user to appropriately make an operation. However, the arrangement, effects and advantages of Ozawa et al. are clearly different from those of the present invention.

Specifically, in Ozawa et al., a player enters speech from a microphone 60 to operate a character of a game (see abstract). The predetermined words to be spoken are displayed in a color different from that of the remaining part of the message sentences (See Ozawa et al. col. 16, lines 60-66). In other words, displaying the words in a different color is for informing the user what word the user should input.

On the other hand, in Applicants' claim 1, displaying words in a different color is for allowing the user to easily understand the scenario of the game. For example, when the user stops the game after storing the data, and then restarts to continue the same game, the user can easily determine progress of the game based on the differently colored words in the message. Therefore, an object of being differently colored in Applicants' claim 1 is different from that of Ozawa et al.

Accordingly, Applicants' claim 1 would not be obvious based on Ozawa et al. disclosing an arrangement for informing the user what word the user should input.

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In addition, the undersigned attorney of record made the following points to the Examiner. Namely, in the final office action mailed October 19, 2005, the Examiner cites Ozawa et al.'s col. 10, lines 1-5 in an attempt to show that Applicants' claim 1 is obvious. The undersigned pointed out that this portion of Ozawa et al. says nothing about changing the color of words. The only part of Ozawa et al. that mentions the color of words is with respect to displaying the words in a different color for informing the user what word the user should input. This teaching in Ozawa et al. appears to have no relation to the teaching in col. 10, lines 1-5. Therefore, Applicants claim 1 would not be obvious.

The Examiner also asked some questions about the operation described in Ozawa et al.'s col. 16, lines 38-67, to which the undersigned responded that the color of words is with respect to displaying the words in a different color for informing the user what word the user should input and not in response to, and to indicate, experiences of a character.

The undersigned also pointed out to the Examiner that Applicants' claims 20-29 should especially be allowable because Ozawa et al. simply does not disclose the specifically claimed "place category" and "person category".

The outcome of the interview, as understood by the undersigned, was that *the Examiner indicated that she initially tended to agree with Applicants' arguments* but that she would need to speak with her supervisor since the supervisor would make the final decision. It was agreed that the Examiner would speak to her supervisor and that the undersigned would call the Examiner back on February 8, 2005, so the Examiner could tell the undersigned what the supervisor said.

After exchanging a few voice mail messages, the undersigned spoke with the Examiner again on February 15, 2005. The

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Examiner indicated that she had just been transferred to a new Group Art Unit and that she has a new supervisor. The Examiner said that her new supervisor did not have time to discuss the case that week. Therefore, the Examiner indicated that Applicants should file a written response by the one-month extended deadline and that she would speak to her supervisor later after she receives the response.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 and 20-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,538,666 B1 to Ozawa et al. ("Ozawa et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As explained above in the summary of the February 3, 2005, Examiner telephone interview, Ozawa et al. discloses an arrangement for informing the user what word the user should input, whereas in Applicants' claim 1 words are displayed in a different color for allowing the user to easily understand the scenario of the game. Thus, an object of being differently colored in Applicants' claim 1 is quite different from that of Ozawa et al.

More specifically, Applicants' independent claim 1 recites "message displaying means for displaying a message on said display monitor such that a color of words of a category changes in response to, and to indicate, experiences of a character in a scenario of a program executed by the entertainment apparatus". Independent claims 6, 7, 12, 28 and 29 include similar language.

The Examiner asserts that these limitations of Applicants' claims are obvious based on Ozawa et al.'s col. 10, lines 1-5. (See Final Office Action mailed 10/19/2004, page 3, lines 5-13). As discussed above, Applicants pointed out during the Examiner telephone interview of February 3, 2005, that the cited portion

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of Ozawa et al. says nothing about changing the color of words. The only part of Ozawa et al. that mentions the color of words is with respect to displaying the words in a different color for informing the user what word the user should input. This teaching in Ozawa et al. appears to have no relation to the teaching in col. 10, lines 1-5.

As mentioned in the above interview summary, *it is the undersigned's understanding that the Examiner initially tended to agree with these arguments* but that she would need to speak with her supervisor about the matter. As such, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 28 and 29 are not obvious in view of Ozawa et al. and that the rejections of these claims, as well as the rejections of the dependent claims, should be withdrawn.

In addition, with respect to Applicants' claims 20-29, Applicants submit that these claims should especially be allowable due to the above discussed reasons and because Ozawa et al. simply does not disclose the specifically claimed "place category" and "person category". As discussed above, Applicants also explained this to the Examiner during the Examiner telephone interview of February 3, 2005.

More specifically, with respect to Applicants' dependent claims 20-27, the Examiner asserts that Ozawa et al.'s column 4, lines 34-41 discloses the limitations of these claims. However, the cited language simply does not disclose anything about a place category, a person category, or a character, as is recited in these claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejections of dependent claims 20-27 must be withdrawn because the cited portion of Ozawa et al. simply does not disclose or teach the subject matter of these claims.

And regarding independent claims 28 and 29, these claims incorporate the limitations of Applicants' claims 1 and 20 and

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claims 1 and 21, respectively. Therefore, these claims are allowable over Ozawa et al. for the same reasons provided above for Applicants' claim 1 and dependent claims 20-27.

*As such, Applicants submit that dependent claims 20-27 and independent claims 28 and 29 should especially be allowable.*

Fees Believed to be Due

A petition and fee for a one-month extension of time to respond is included herewith.

As the claims have not been amended and no claims have been added, no extra claims fees are believed to be due.

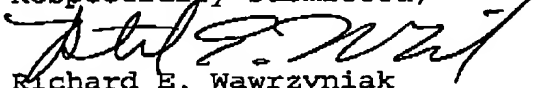
C O N C L U S I O N

In view of the above, Applicants submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Richard E. Wawrzyniak at (858) 552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Dated

2/18/05

Respectfully submitted,



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